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OCCUPATIONAL DESIRES AND EXPECTATIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS.

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A STUDY WAS MADE TO DETERMINE (1) THE OCCUPATIONAL DESIRES AND THE ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT EXPECTATIONS OF NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, (2) THE EXTENT AND DIRECTION OF THESE DIFFERENCES, AND (3) THE RELATIONSHIP OF BACKGROUND FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL. THE SAMPLE WAS COMPOSED OF 1,069 SENIORS FROM 12 WHITE AND 11 NEGRO SCHOOLS IN NORTH CAROLINA, WHO PROVIDED NAMES OF OCCUPATIONS IN WHICH THEY DESIRED TO ENGAGE AS WELL AS OCCUPATIONS IN WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO ENGAGE. OCCUPATIONS WERE CODED ACCORDING TO A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE NORTH-HATT SCALE. CONCLUSIONS WERE -- (1) RESPONDENTS OF HIGH AND LOW EXTREMES OF INTELLIGENCE MORE FREQUENTLY THAN THOSE OF MEDIUM INTELLIGENCE INDICATED NO DIFFERENCE IN PRESTIGE BETWEEN THE DESIRED AND EXPECTED OCCUPATIONS, (2) RESPONDENTS WHOSE FATHERS HAD HIGH OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE INDICATED NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DESIRED AND EXPECTED OCCUPATIONS, AND THOSE WHOSE FATHERS HAD LOW OCCUPATIONAL PRESTIGE EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR A HIGHER PRESTIGE OCCUPATION THAN EXPECTED, (3) RESPONDENTS HAVING TWO OR FEWER SIBLINGS INDICATED THE LEAST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRESTIGE OF DESIRED AND EXPECTED OCCUPATIONS, AND RESPONDENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN FIVE SIBLINGS INDICATED A DESIRE FOR A HIGHER PRESTIGE OCCUPATION THAN EXPECTED, AND (4) TOWN RESIDENTS MORE FREQUENTLY INDICATED NO OR LESS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DESIRED AND EXPECTED OCCUPATIONS THAN COUNTRY RESIDENTS. THE DESIRES AND EXPECTATIONS ARE ALSO ANALYZED BY RACE AND SEX. (PS)

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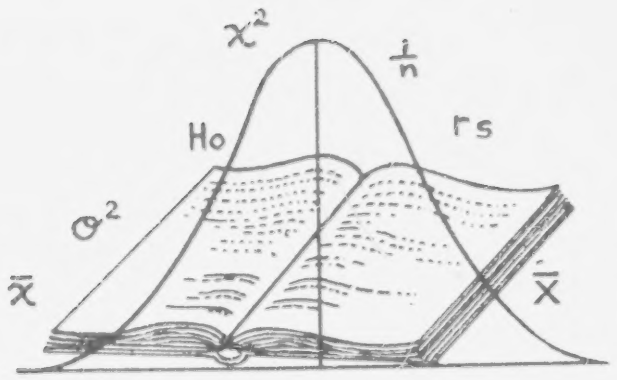

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Many people in the United States today subscribe to the philosophy that each individual should be educated to the limit of his capacity, thus raising his personal occupational potential and in turn raising the socio-economic level of society as a whole. Current federal and state retraining and/or extended educational programs are but one indication of a more generalized dissatisfaction with present progress toward that goal.

Two pertinent questions derive from the philosophical position stated above: "What is the relationship between the occupational desires and expectations held by individuals?"; and, "To what extent is variation between occupational desire and expectation related to personal and social characteristics?"

Assuming that differences do exist between occupational desires (the occupational level which the individual would like to attain if there were no inhibiting factors) and expectations (that occupational level which he believes he actually will attain) of individuals, with consequent personal and social loss, and assuming that these differences are to some extent the results of factors over which individuals have little control, an obvious implication is that society must make some systemic changes designed either to motivate individuals to greater effort, or to create an environment in which aspirations are more nearly attainable, or both.

Statement of the Problem

This study was concerned with the relationship between occupational desires and expectations of North Carolina high

school seniors, concentrating upon that population because they find themselves most immediately faced with the necessity of engaging in the occupational decision making process. Further, it was desired to know the extent and direction of those differences, should they exist. Finally, investigation was conducted to determine whether background factors associated with the individuals might be related to the extent and direction of observed differences.

Hypotheses

It is assumed that various socio-economic factors affect the occupational desires and expectations of young people. As an example, it is generally accepted that the class position of the family from which the student comes will affect his occupational goals. Generally, students from higher status families do not have the monetary problems which stifle vaulting ambition nor are they as limited in occupational vision as the student from the lesser status family.

It similarly is assumed that the occupational desires of the sexes differ as a result of socialization. In our society, it is the male who typically is perceived as the source of income for the family while the female role is more typically visualized as keeping the home and rearing the children.

If we accept that socio-economic factors of this nature do affact the occupational ambitions of students, then we may proceed one step further in logic and say that such factors potentially are related to the anticipated differences in

prestige between desired and expected occupations. For example, to return to the class, factor, one might presume that the desired and expected occupations of students from the higher class families would be more nearly in harmony than would those of students from lower class families. The reasons are obvious. One might be that the student from the upper class family will not so frequently interpret as an insurmountable hurdle the necessity of financing an education which will allow him to obtain a high level occupation, and therefore will not find it necessary to lower his expectations.

On the basis of such interpretation, the following hypotheses were proposed for test.

1. The prestige of desired occupations will be greater than will the prestige of expected occupations.

2. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be greater among the male complement of the sample than among the female.

3. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be greater among the Negro complement of the sample than among the white.

4. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be inversely related to the IQ of the respondents.

5. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be inversely related to the social class of the respondent's families.

6. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be directly related to the number of siblings.

7. The difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations will be greater among respondents residing in town than respondents residing in the country.

Need for the Study

Some indication of existing differences between occupational desires and expectations of students, and especially any background factors associated with this difference, should prove very helpful to parents, teachers, guidance counselors, educational administrators, and legislators.

If the nature and extent of differences between desired and expected occupations could be shown to be related to socio-economic variables of the environment, the educational structure would be provided with information which it could utilize to minimize the personal and social loss of occupational under achievement. This would provide the basis for a guidance system divorced from dependence solely upon the student aptitudes, and incorporating the frequently more important environmental factors in decision-making for the future of the student. While student competencies are largely invariant, there is reasonable opportunity to alter environmental conditions so as to attain maximization of student potentials.

Scope of the Study

The sample was composed of 1069 seniors from 23 high schools (see Appendix A) in North Carolina, representing each of the non Metropolitan Economic Areas of the state. Twelve white and eleven Negro schools were included. Selection was based upon mean size of schools offering a comprehensive curriculum in each economic area.

Design of the Report

The report was divided into two major sections. One investigates the direction of difference between desired and expected occupational scores among subsamples of the respondent group. The other deals with relationships of certain background factors to direction and extent of difference between desired and expected occupations.

Method of Analysis

Three relationships between desired and expected occupation were used as bases for tests throughout the report. Respondents having no difference between their occupational desires and expectations formed the first of these categories; respondents desiring higher occupational levels than they expected formed the second category; and respondents expecting higher level occupations than they desired formed the last.

Indicated levels of significance were obtained by the chi-square statistic. An explanation of this method is presented in Appendix C.

Prestige scores for levels of occupations were obtained from the Modified North-Hatt Scale. An explanation of this Scale is found in Appendix B.

COMPARISON OF DIRECTION OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DESIRED AND EXPECTED OCCUPATIONAL SCORES AMONG RESPONDENT SUBSAMPLES

Sex-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference

Students provided the names of occupations in which they desired to engage, as well as the occupations in which they expected to engage. To obtain a standard of reference, these occupational titles were coded into prestige ranges according to a modified version of the North-Hatt Scale.

In Table 1 below, all responses were categorized according to the prestige scores of the respondents desired and expected occupation. Each of the three resulting types of response was further classified by sex. The relationships shown differ beyond the .001 level of significance.

Table 1. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, Male and Female

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents	
	Male (N=410)	Female (N=539)
None	52.44	50.46
Desired Higher	40.49	35.81
Expected Higher	7.07	13.73

Responses reflected in Table 1 indicated nearly half the sample to have no difference between their desired and expected occupational levels. It was thought prior to the study that most respondents would exhibit some difference. Perhaps a partial answer for this finding lies in the analytical procedure used. Class intervals of ten were used in comparing the differences. A respondent may have desired an occupation with a prestige score of 79, and expected an occupation with a prestige score of 70, and the analytical method used would indicate no difference.

Approximately equal percentages of males and females responded as having no difference between the prestige level of their occupational desires and expectations. It was thought that more females than males would have no difference, on the basis of females being more realistic in occupational choice than males, a factor compounded by a limited occupational market for females.

One of these respondents reflecting a difference between occupational scores 78 per cent desired a higher occupational level than they expected. Male responses were more prominent than female in that category, as was anticipated. The limited occupational market and the normalized household role of females was expected to reduce the level of their desired occupations.

An unexpected finding reflected in Table 1 was the relatively large number of respondents indicating expectation

of an occupation with a higher prestige score than the one they desired. More than twice as many females as males responded in that category. Perhaps some parents encourage their children to engage in higher prestige occupations than the children actually desire. The young son may desire to be a businessman or agriculture worker, but his parents may push him toward being an engineer or doctor. The young daughter may wish to become a secretary, but her parents may strongly encourage her to become a school teacher or nurse.

Since female response outnumbered male response in expectation of a higher occupational level than the one desired, it may be that marriage plans were partly responsible for that difference. Marriage is assumed to change the occupational outlook of the female to a greater extent than it does that of the male. A housewife rated lower in the North-Hatt Scale of occupational prestiges than many other occupations and, while this hypothesis was not tested, many females may expect to become school teachers or nurses, while they would rather be housewives. This condition may be related to the time at which the students were interviewed. Female high school students probably idealize the normative housewife role, while anticipating a temporary occupational career.

Race-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference

In Table 2 response was categorized according to the three possible relationships between prestige of desired and expected occupation, and by race.

Table 2. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, White and Negro

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents	
	White (N=567)	Negro (N=382)
None	47.97	56.28
Desired Higher	41.45	32.46
Expected Higher	10.58	11.26

More Negro than white respondents were categorized as having between desired and expected occupational level. It was expected that more whites would indicate no difference. Negroes generally compose a somewhat lower socio-economic class, and one would expect their occupational expectation level to be lower, without a necessary corresponding depression of occupational desire. Negroes apparently recognize their social limitations and lower their occupational desires, in effect being more realistic than whites.

Significantly more whites than Negroes indicated a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected. One would think the reasons for this finding are similar or the same as those involved in more Negroes than whites having no difference in the desired and expected occupational level.

Approximately equal percentages of whites and Negroes indicated an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired. On the basis of this finding one may conclude that race does not influence the group expecting a higher prestige occupation than desired.

Sex-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference Among Whites

In Table 3 response was again categorized according to the three possible relationships between prestige of desired and expected occupation, and by sex among white respondents.

Table 3. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, White Males and Females

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of White Respondents	
	Male (N=255)	Female (N=312)
None	49.80	46.48
Desired Higher	43.14	40.06
Expected Higher	7.06	13.46

More than 51 per cent of the respondents reflected some difference between occupational desire and expectation levels. Of those indicating a difference, 80 per cent desired a higher occupational level than they expected. These findings were comparable to those for the total sample.

Notable results in Table 3 indicate that among white respondents more males than females expressed no difference between the level of their desired and expected occupation. Also, more males than females expressed a desire for a higher level occupation than expected, while a greater percentage of females than males expected a higher level occupation than desired. Again, these findings were comparable to those involving the total sample.

Sex-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference Among Negroes

Response was categorized in Table 4 according to the three possible relationships between prestige of desired and expected occupation, and by sex among Negro respondents.

Table 4. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, Negro Males and Females

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Negro Respondents	
	Male (N=155)	Female (N=227)
None	56.77	55.95
Desired Higher	36.13	29.95
Expected Higher	7.10	14.10

Less than 45 per cent of the Negro respondents indicated a difference in level between their desired and expected occupation. This compares to the more than 51 per cent of white respondents who expressed such a difference in Table 3. Of the Negro respondents indicating a difference, 74 per cent expressed a desire for a higher prestige occupation than they expected.

Again more male than female respondents indicated no difference between their desired and expected occupational level, and more males than females desired a higher level occupation than expected. About twice as many females as males expressed an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired. These findings were comparable in both

direction and degree to those obtained when sex was used as a control among whites and within the total sample.

Race-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference Among Females

In Table 5 response was categorized by race among females and according to the three possible relationships between prestige of desired and expected occupation.

Table 5. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, Female Whites and Negroes

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Female Respondents	
	White (N=312)	Negro (N=227)
None	46.47	55.95
Desired Higher	40.07	29.95
Expected Higher	13.46	14.10

Differences among female respondents, shown in Table 5, were very similar to those between all whites and all Negroes of the sample, Table 2. Table 5 responses indicated more Negroes than white to have no difference in prestige between desired and expected occupation; more whites than Negroes to desire a higher prestige occupation than expected; and approximately equal proportions who expected a higher prestige occupation than desired. It is probable that the findings in this table are explained by the same rationale provided for the findings in Table 2, involving all whites and all Negroes.

Race-Linked Affects Upon Direction of Difference Among Males

In Table 6 response was categorized by race among males, according to the three possible relationships between prestige of desired and expected occupation.

Table 6. Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores, Male Whites and Negroes

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Male Respondents	
	White (N=255)	Negro (N=155)
None	49.80	56.77
Desired Higher	43.14	36.13
Expected Higher	7.06	7.10

Again differences were similar in both degree and direction to those involving all whites and Negroes. Percentages among males in this table were higher in the first two categories than among all females, and the percentages for females in the third category were higher than with males. Of course, the differences among males and among females averaged the results involving all males and all females but the differences were related to race and sex; not races within the sexes.

Conclusions

Approximately half of the sample response revealed no difference between prestige score of the desired and expected occupation. The methodology used in this report may have

been partially responsible for this unexpected finding. Class intervals of ten were used in comparing the prestige differences. Thus, responses indicating no difference in prestige between occupational desires and expectations may have actually ranged from 0 to 9 points difference. While this method submerged some differences between desired and expected occupational prestige, it may be defended on two bases: (1) it provided a minimum by which to gauge the extent of prestige differences; (2) it applied equally to all parts of the sample.

Of the approximately one-half of the total response showing a prestige difference, some 80 per cent expressed a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected. The remaining responses indicated an expectation for a higher prestige occupation than desired. This was a somewhat unexpected finding. Perhaps this is a result of children being encouraged by their parents to enter a higher prestige occupation than they desire.

Females may be considered more realistic in selecting occupations than are males. It was thought more females than males would have no difference in prestige score between their desired and expected occupations. This assumption was reversed by the sample response.

With sex used as a control variable among white respondents, males tended to be slightly more realistic than females in that more males expressed desires for occupations with the same prestige as the ones they expected. Similar

findings existed when sex was used as a control variable among Negroes. Sex is of little explanatory value concerning that part of the sample showing no difference in prestige level of desired and expected occupation.

More males than females indicated a desire for a higher prestige occupation than the one expected. These findings may spring from the fact that the field of occupations for females is more limited than for males. Also, many high school senior females may desire to marry and become housewives(an occupation rated relatively low on the North-Hatt Scale),while actually expecting to be nurses, school teachers, etc. These same reasons apparently account for the finding of more females than males expecting a higher prestige occupation than desired. Differences between male and female responses among whites, and among Negroes, were very similar to those involving the total sample. It was therefore concluded that race had little affect upon occupational prestige differences existing between male and female responses.

Negroes tended to be more realistic than whites in that more Negro than white responses indicated no difference in prestige score between desired and expected occupation. Negroes tend to have their aspirations hampered by lack of opportunity, and consequently probably become more realistic in selecting occupations. Responses indicated more whites than Negroes desired a higher prestige occupation than expected. Again, Negroes obviously have less opportunity, therefore lowering their aspirations to be more in line with

their expectations. Approximately equal numbers of each race indicated an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired.

Differences between white and Negro responses among males, and among females, were similar to those involving the total sample. Sex apparently had little affect upon differences existing between white and Negro responses.

RELATIONSHIP OF CERTAIN BACKGROUND FACTORS TO DIRECTION AND EXTENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OCCUPATIONAL SCORES

Direction of Difference and Intelligence

To investigate the relationship between intelligence and the difference in occupational prestige scores, response was categorized according to the three possible relationships between desired and expected occupational scores, and into three intelligence groups, Table 7. The intelligence groups were low (I. Q. range below 90), medium (I.Q. range 90-109), and high (I. Q. range beyond 109).

Table 7. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores to Intelligence

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Intelligence		
	Low (N=293)	Medium (N=410)	High (N=131)
None	55.63	47.32	51.14
Desired Higher	33.45	42.19	36.65
Expected Higher	10.92	10.49	12.21

Response indicated respondents of low intelligence to be more realistic than those of high intelligence in that more respondents of low intelligence indicated no difference between desired and expected occupational prestige levels. Further, respondents of medium intelligence were less realistic in this sense, than either of the other two categories. Response among those expressing a desire for a higher prestige occupation

than expected further substantiated that conclusion. There was little difference among the intelligence groups insofar as response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired.

It was expected that respondents of high intelligence would have the least difference between desired and expected occupational prestige scores. For the high intelligence group should be better able to attain their occupational aspirations and would be expected to perceive this. Respondents of high intelligence apparently did have less difference between their occupational aspirations and expectations than respondents of medium intelligence.

However, respondents of low intelligence apparently had less difference than either those of high or medium intelligence. Individuals of lower intelligence may be more cognizant of their limitations. In all probability they do not aspire so high occupationally as do those of higher intelligence, thus tending to decrease the difference between their occupational desired and expected prestige levels.

Also, students of lower intelligence are less likely to plan for education beyond high school. The high school seniors of lower intelligence participating in this study probably were more certain about their occupational future than those of higher intelligence. Differences reflected in Table 7 may have meaning, but were statistically insignificant.

Intelligence and Extent of Differences Among Those Desiring A Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

In Table 8 response indicating a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected was categorized into the three intelligence groups and according to the extent of the difference.

Table 8. Relationship of Intelligence to Respondents Desiring Higher Prestige Scored Occupations Than Expected

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Intelligence		
	Low (N=48)	Medium (N=96)	High (N=34)
1 - 9	68.75	61.46	76.47
10 - 19	22.92	32.29	8.82
Over 19	8.33	6.25	14.71

Again respondents of medium intelligence apparently had the greatest difference between the prestige scores of desired and expected occupations. As was anticipated respondents of high intelligence indicated less difference between the prestige scores of desired and expected occupations than did respondents in the other two intelligence categories. Differences shown in Table 8 were not statistically significant.

Intelligence and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting A Higher Prestige Scored Occupation Than Desired

In Table 9 response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired was categorized into the three intelligence groups and on the extent of the difference.

Table 9. Relationship of Intelligence to Respondents Expecting Higher Prestige Scored Occupations Than Desired

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Intelligence		
	Low (N=32)	Medium (N=44)	High (N=16)
1 - 9	65.62	68.18	81.25
10 - 19	21.88	25.00	12.50
Over 19	12.50	6.82	6.25

Of those respondents indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired, the higher intelligence respondents tended to have the least difference. This was generally expected on the basis of respondents of higher intelligence being more realistic and having less difference between the prestige scores of their desired and expected occupation than those of lower intelligence. The differences exhibited in the Table were not statistically significant.

Direction of Difference and Father's Occupational Prestige Score

To test the relationship between social class and the differences between prestige of desired and expected occupations, response was categorized according to the three possible affinities between prestige scores of desired and expected occupations, and on the basis of the prestige score of the respondent's father's occupation, Table 10. The occupational prestige scores of the respondent's fathers were categorized as low and high, with 70 as the "breakpoint."

Table 10. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores to Prestige Score of Father's Occupation

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Prestige Score	
	Low (N=760)	High (N=94)
None	50.93	54.25
Desired Higher	38.68	31.91
Expected Higher	10.39	13.83

It was expected that respondents whose fathers had high occupational prestige scores would exhibit the least difference between the prestige ratings of desired and expected occupation. Usually the higher the occupational prestige score, the higher the socio-economic status of the family. Thus it was thought that respondents of the high occupational prestige families

would obtain more opportunity and encouragement to attain their occupational goals. Table 10 results supported this rationale, for more respondents of high occupational prestige families indicated no difference between the prestige score of their desired and expected occupation.

A greater percentage of respondents from low occupational prestige families indicated a desire for a higher prestige occupation than the one they expected to attain. This was expected in that those of lower occupational prestige families probably do not receive the opportunity and encouragement needed to attain their occupational goals.

Slightly more respondents of high occupational prestige families than low indicated they expected to attain a higher prestige occupation than the one desired. Apparently the high occupational prestige families tend in some cases to push their children into higher prestige occupations than the children desire.

Differences in Table 10 appear to have educational meaning. However, they were not statistically significant.

Respondent's Father's Occupational Prestige and Extent of Difference Among Those Desiring A Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

Response indicating a desire for an occupation of higher prestige than expected was categorized on the basis of extent of difference, and according to whether the father's occupational prestige score was high or low.

Table 11. Relationship of Extent of Those Desiring Higher Occupational Scores Than They Expect to Prestige Score of Father's Occupation

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Prestige Score	
	Low (N=164)	High (N=14)
1 - 9	68.29	50.00
10 - 19	23.78	35.71
Over 19	7.93	14.29

The results, shown in Table 11, indicated that those respondents whose father had a low prestige occupation had the least difference between their desired and expected occupational score. Since opportunity would obviously be more limited for those from the low occupational prestige family, they apparently lower their occupational desires to be closer to their expectations. The differences in Table 11 were not found to be statistically significant.

Respondent's Father's Occupational Prestige and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting A Higher Prestige Occupation Than Desired

Response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than the one desired was categorized on the basis of extent of difference, and according to whether the father's occupational prestige score was high or low, Table 12.

Table 12. Relationship of Extent of Those Expecting Higher Occupational Scores Than They Desire to Prestige Score of Father's Occupation

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Prestige Score	
	Low (N=25)	High (N=4)
1 - 9	76.00	75.00
10 - 19	20.00	25.00
Over 19	4.00	0.00

The prestige score of the respondent's father's occupation had almost no affect upon the extent of difference among those respondents expecting to attain a higher prestige scored occupation than the one desired. Apparently the family occupational prestige has no affect upon those in this particular category.

Relationship of Father's Educational Level to Direction of Difference Between Respondent's Desired and Expected Occupation

Separation of response was made on the basis of the three possible directions of difference, and according to the respondent's father's educational level. Response indicating a father with an eight grade or less education was placed in the low category; ninth through twelfth in the medium category; and over twelfth in the high category, Table 13.

Table 13. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores to Father's Education

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Education		
	Low (N=485)	Medium (N=344)	High (N=86)
None	48.87	52.03	58.14
Desired Higher	40.82	36.63	30.23
Expected Higher	10.31	11.34	11.63

It was expected that respondents whose fathers had the highest educational level would have the least difference between prestige of desired and expected occupations for they would probably get more encouragement and encounter fewer socio-economic barriers than those whose fathers had little education. This expectation was borne out by the data, as shown in Table 13. Greater percentages of respondents indicated no difference between the prestige of desired and expected occupations as the educational level of their fathers increased. Further, decreasing percentages indicated a desire for an occupation of higher prestige than that expected directly proportional to the increase in educational level of the fathers. It might be concluded that there is better preparation and fewer adjustments to occupational reality in these families where the father is better educated.

Respondents whose fathers had a low educational level more often indicated a desire for a higher prestige scored occupation than the one expected. They apparently do not get the encouragement or have the resources available to expect to attain high occupational goals.

The father's educational level had little relationship to the proportion of respondents expecting a higher prestige occupation than desired.

None of these differences were statistically significant.

Respondent's Father's Educational Level and Extent of Difference Among Those Desiring a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

The portion of response indicating a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected was categorized on the basis of extent of difference, and according to the educational level of the respondent's father, Table 14.

Table 14. Relationship of Extent of Those Desiring Higher Occupational Scores Than They Expect to Father's Education.

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Education		
	Low (N=113)	Medium (N=67)	High (N=12)
1 - 9	63.72	71.64	58.33
10 - 19	30.09	20.90	25.00
Over 19	6.19	7.46	16.67

Respondents whose fathers had a medium level education had the least difference between the scores of their desired and expected occupation. Those whose fathers had a high educational level indicated more difference than those whose fathers had a low educational level. Apparently respondents whose fathers had a high educational level tended to aspire higher, causing greater differences between scores of desired and expected occupations. Those whose fathers had a low educational level may have tended to expect lower prestige occupations causing greater difference between scores of desired and expected occupations. Thus those respondents whose fathers had a medium level education appeared to be more realistic than the other two categories. Again differences were not statistically significant.

Respondent's Father's Educational Level and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Desired

In Table 15, the portion of response indicating an expectation for a higher prestige occupation than desired was categorized on the basis of extent of difference, and according to the educational level of the respondent's father.

Table 15. Relationship of Extent of Those Expecting Higher Occupational Scores Than They Desire to Father's Education

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Father's Education		
	Low (N=18)	Medium (N=9)	High (N=2)
1 - 9	72.22	88.89	50.00
10 - 19	22.22	11.11	50.00
Over 19	5.56	0.00	0.00

Again, respondents whose fathers had a medium educational level had the least difference between the prestige scores of their desired and expected occupation. Also, respondents whose fathers had the highest educational level had the most difference. These findings were again apparently due to the possibility that those whose fathers had a high educational level expected higher prestige occupations than those whose fathers had a low or medium educational level; and those whose fathers had a low educational level desired occupations of lower prestige than those whose fathers had a medium or high educational level. These differences were not found to be statistically significant.

Relationship of Mother's Educational Level to Direction of Difference Between Respondent's Desired and Expected Occupation

Separation of response was made on the basis of the three possible directions of difference, and according to the respondent's mother's educational level.

Table 16. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupational Scores to Mother's Education

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Mother's Education		
	Low (N=324)	Medium (N=512)	High (N=92)
None	48.76	51.17	61.96
Desired Higher	41.36	36.72	31.52
Expected Higher	9.88	12.11	6.52

Response, reflected in Table 16, was very similar to Table 13 in which influence of father's education was tested. The respondents whose mothers had the highest educational level more frequently exhibited no difference between prestige scores of desired and expected occupations. Motivation from parents, highly-education oriented environment, and fewer socio-economic barriers undoubtedly contribute to such a situation.

Respondents whose mothers had the lowest educational level indicated in greater percentage a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected. Again the environmental setting of limited opportunity probably accounts for this fact.

Response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired was least among respondents whose mothers had the greatest amount of education. This would be expected, in that those respondents would probably be motivated to aspire higher. But, in Table 13, the father's educational level had no influence upon expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired. Possibly the mother's educational level, and indeed the mother per se, has more influence than the father on the child's occupational desires and expectations.

Difference shown by the Table were just beyond the statistically significant range.

Respondent's Mother's Educational Level and Extent of Difference Among Those Desiring Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

The portion of response indicating a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected was categorized on the basis of extent of difference, and according to the educational level of the respondent's mother, Table 17.

Table 17. Relationship of Extent of Those Desiring Higher Occupational Scores Than They Expect to Mother's Education

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Mother's Education		
	Low (N=80)	Medium (N=101)	High (N=12)
1 - 9	65.00	68.32	58.33
10 - 19	28.75	23.76	33.33
Over 19	6.25	7.92	8.34

Just as was true of the father's education, the educational level of the respondents' mothers was related to the probability of expecting an occupation of lesser prestige than that desired. The reasons for such a condition are probably the same as with the influence of the father's education. Apparently respondents whose mothers had a high educational level tended to aspire higher, causing greater difference between scores of desired and expected occupations. Those whose mothers had a low educational level probably tended to expect lower prestige occupations also causing difference between scores of desired and expected occupations. Therefore those whose mothers had a medium level education appeared to be more realistic in occupational choices than the other two categories. The differences were not statistically significant.

Respondent's Mother's Educational Level and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Desired

The portion of response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired was separated on the basis of extent of difference, and further categorized in accord with the educational level of the respondent's mother, Table 18.

Table 18. Relationship of Extent of Those Expecting Higher Occupational Scores Than They Desire to Mother's Education

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Mother's Education		
	Low (N=11)	Medium (N=14)	High (N=4)
1 - 9	63.64	92.86	50.00
10 - 19	27.27	7.14	50.00
Over 19	9.09	0.00	0.00

Respondents whose mothers had a medium educational level exhibited the least difference between the prestige scores of their desired and expected occupations. Respondents whose mothers had the highest educational level had the most difference. Again, these findings were apparently due to the possibility that those whose mothers had a high educational level expected higher prestige occupations than those whose mothers had a low or medium educational level. And those whose mothers had a low educational level desired lower prestige occupations than those whose mothers had a medium or high educational level. These differences were not statistically significant.

Relationship of Number of Siblings to Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupation

The sample was divided according to the three possible directions of occupational prestige difference, and each of these three divisions was separated according to the number of siblings in the family of the respondent. Zero - 2 siblings were categorized low, 3-5 medium and over 5 high, Table 19.

Table 19. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Prestige of Desired and Expected Occupation to Number of Siblings

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Number of Siblings		
	Low (N=351)	Medium (N=362)	High (N=213)
None	51.00	55.80	42.72
Desired Higher	36.75	33.98	46.95
Expected Higher	12.25	10.22	10.33

Differences reflected by Table 19 were significant beyond the .02 level, indicating that number of siblings was related to the direction of prestige differences between desired and expected occupations. Respondents having low and medium numbers of siblings more frequently indicated no difference between the prestige of desired and expected occupations.

A limited number of children more often characterizes a family of higher socio-economic status. And higher socio-economic level families provide children with greater encouragement and opportunity, in turn giving them greater cause to expect

to attain their occupational goals. The reverse also holds true. This rationale may account for the observed relationship between number of siblings and the direction of difference in prestige of desired and expected occupations.

A greater percentage of respondents having a high number of siblings indicated a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected. Again, it seems that a lower socio-economic level family offers less encouragement opportunity, perhaps causing the child to feel that he will not attain his occupational goals.

There was very little difference among the proportions expecting a higher prestige occupation than desired. Apparently the number of siblings did not influence response appreciably among this group.

Number of Siblings and Extent of Difference Among Those Desiring a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

In Table 20 response indicating a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected was categorized by number of siblings, and further separated according to the extent of the difference.

Table 20. Relationship of Extent of Those Desiring Higher Prestige Occupations Than They Expect to Number of Siblings

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Number of Siblings		
	Low (N=71)	Medium (N=72)	High (N=53)
1 - 9	69.01	66.67	64.15
10 - 19	22.54	26.39	26.42
Over 19	8.45	6.94	9.43

A family containing a small number of children generally constitutes one of higher socio-economic standing than one with a higher number of siblings. The off-spring of these higher socio-economic class families tend to receive more encouragement and encounter fewer barriers in striving to attain their occupational goals. Thus, it would seem that respondents of families with a smaller number of children would have the least difference between the prestige levels of their desired and expected occupations. The findings of Table 20 supported this hypothesis.

Number of Siblings and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Desired

In Table 21 response indicating an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired was categorized by number of siblings, and according to the extent of the difference.

Table 21. Relationship of Extent of Those Expecting Higher Prestige Occupations Than They Desire to Number of Siblings

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Number of Siblings		
	Low (N=10)	Medium (N=10)	High (N=8)
1 - 9	80.00	60.00	,100.00
10 - 19	20.00	40.00	0.00
Over 19	0.00	0.00	0.00

In Table 21 the amount of response was small, no distinct pattern was obvious, and the differences were statistically insignificant. Apparently the number of siblings had little relationship to respondent expectations of a higher prestige occupation than desired.

Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Desired and Expected Occupations to Place of Residence

Response was categorized according to the three possible directions of difference, in occupational prestige and upon whether the respondent resided in town or in the country, Table 22.

Table 22. Relationship of Direction of Difference Between Prestige of Desired and Expected Occupations to Place of Residence

Direction of Difference	Per Cent of Respondents Place of Residence	
	Country (N=606)	Town (N=333)
None	49.01	54.65
Desired Higher	39.60	35.44
Expected Higher	11.39	9.91

High school seniors residing in town tended to have less difference between the prestige level of their occupational desires and expections than those residing in the country. Town residents often tend to be in higher socio-economic classes than country residents, and this aids members of the family at

working age to expect to more nearly realize their occupational desires. Also, town residents have had more contact with the various occupations, and this knowledge perhaps causes them to be more realistic than country residents about their occupational future. In Table 22 more response of town than country residents indicated no difference in prestige between their desired and expected occupations.

More respondents of country than town residence expressed a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected, and an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired. These findings probably stem from the same rationale presented in the preceding paragraph. Differences exhibited in Table 22 were statistically significant beyond the .05 level.

Place of Residence and Extent of Difference Among Those Desiring a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Expected

In Table 23 that portion of response expressing a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected was further divided on the basis of respondent residence.

Table 23. Relationship of Extent of Those Desiring Higher Prestige Occupations Than They Expect to Place of Residence

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Place of Residence	
	Country (N=144)	Town (N=54)
1 - 9	65.97	66.67
10 - 19	25.00	27.78
Over 19	9.03	5.55

Respondents claiming a town residence indicated slightly less difference between the prestige of their desired and expected occupations. However, the differences were not statistically significant, and it might be concluded that place of residence had little affect upon extent of differences among respondents desiring a higher prestige occupation than they expected to attain.

Place of Residence and Extent of Difference Among Those Expecting a Higher Prestige Occupation Than Desired

In Table 24 that portion of response expressing an expectation of a higher prestige occupation than desired was further separated according to whether the respondent resided in town or country.

Table 24. Relationship of Extent of Those Expecting Higher Prestige Occupations Than They Desire to Place of Residence

Extent of Difference Points	Per Cent of Respondents Place of Residence	
	Country (N=18)	Town (N=11)
1 - 9	72.22	81.82
10 - 19	22.22	18.18
Over 19	5.56	0.00

Less difference was indicated between prestige of desired and expected occupations by respondents residing in town. Again, respondents in town appeared to be more realistic, probably because of more encouragement, opportunity, and occupational knowledge. The differences among response in Table 24 were not statistically significant.

Conclusions

In this chapter certain background factors were tested to determine whether they had any influence upon direction and extent of difference between prestige scores of desired and expected occupations of the respondents. In many cases the differences were not statistically significant. However, in most cases the differences seemed to have direction and meaning.

Intelligence

The intelligence of the respondent seemed to have some relationship to his desired and expected occupational prestige levels. For example, more respondents of low intelligence indicated desired and expected occupations having no difference in prestige. Perhaps the less intelligent respondents were more cognizant of their limitations, and thus appeared to be more realistic in selecting occupations.

Highly intelligent respondents more frequently than those of medium intelligence indicated no difference in prestige between desired and expected occupations. The more intelligent individuals probably perceived themselves as being more capable of doing what they desire.

Among respondents desiring a higher prestige occupation than expected, differences were the opposite of those among respondents indicating no difference between prestige of desired and expected occupations; i. e., respondents of low intelligence composed the smallest per cent of this category, and respondents of medium intelligence the greatest percentage.

Intelligence apparently was unrelated to the response of those who expected a higher prestige occupation than desired.

In testing the extent of difference among those desiring a higher prestige occupation than expected, respondents of medium intelligence appeared to have the most differences. Again, apparently the low intelligence individuals recognize their limitations and lower their aspirations, and the high intelligence individuals perceive themselves as having the ability to achieve their occupational aspirations.

Father's Occupational Prestige

The father's occupational prestige level should influence the difference in prestige between the respondent's desired and expected occupations. Generally, the higher the occupational prestige of the father, the higher the socio-economic level of the family, enabling the individual to get more encouragement and encounter fewer socio-economic barriers in striving to attain his occupational goals.

This rationale was supported in that more respondents whose fathers had high occupational prestige levels indicated no difference in prestige between their desired

and expected occupations. Also, more respondents whose fathers had a low occupational prestige level expressed a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected.

In testing extent of difference among those desiring a higher prestige occupation than expected, respondents whose fathers had low prestige occupations indicated the least difference. Since opportunity would obviously be more limited for those from the low occupational prestige family, they apparently lowered their occupational desires to be consistent with their expectations.

Parents' Educational Level

Greater percentages of respondents indicated no difference between the prestige of desired and expected occupations as the educational level of their fathers increased. This was expected, for respondents whose fathers had the highest educational level would probably receive more encouragement, and encounter fewer socio-economic barriers, in striving to attain their desired occupation.

The father's educational level affected students who desired a higher prestige occupation than expected, for there was more response in that category among those whose father had a low educational level. The rationale for this would be that the respondents whose fathers have a low educational level find it socially and financially more difficult to attain their occupational aspirations.

The father's educational level apparently had no affect upon those expecting to attain a higher prestige occupation than desired.

For those respondents desiring an occupation of higher prestige than they expected to attain, the least differences were expressed by those whose father had a medium level of education. Perhaps those whose father had a high educational level tended to aspire higher than they reasonably could attain, and those whose father had a low educational level tended to expect occupations of much less prestige than they wished, causing greater differences between scores of desired and expected occupations. Respondents whose fathers had a medium level of education seemed more realistic in the balance they obtained between desired and expected occupations.

The educational level of the respondent's mother affected desired and expected occupational levels in the same way as did the father's educational level.

Siblings

Number of siblings affected the differences between respondents' desired and expected occupational levels. Respondents having limited numbers of siblings more frequently indicated least differences between the prestige of desired and expected occupations.

A limited number of children more often characterizes a family of higher socio-economic status. And higher socio-economic level families provide children with greater encouragement and opportunity, in turn giving them greater cause to expect

to attain their occupational goals. The reverse probably accounts for the fact that a greater percentage of respondents who had a high number of siblings indicated a desire for a higher prestige occupation than expected.

Residence

Respondents of town residence more frequently indicated no difference and least difference between the prestige level of desired and expected occupations. Town residents often tend to be in higher socio-economic classes than country residents, they have had more contact with the various occupations, and a greater variety of occupations is available in their environment. These factors perhaps aid them in being more realistic than country residents about their occupational future.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

A List of the Schools Participating in the Study

Economic Area I

Bethel School, Haywood County

Economic Area 2

Glen Alpine School,Burke County; Lincoln Heights School, Wilkes County

Economic Area 3

South Granville School, Granville County; Mary Potter High School, Granville County

Economic Area 4a

Ledford High School, Davidson County; Peabody School, Montgomery County

Economic Area 4b

Mount Pleasant-McAllister School, Cabarrus County; Dunbar School, Rowan County

Economic Area 5

Piedmont High School, Union County; Western Union School, Union County

Economic Area 6

Union High School, Sampson County; Sampson High School, Sampson County

Economic Area 7

Murfreesboro High School, Hertford County; Central High School, Gates County

Economic Area 8

Grantham School, Wayne County, Frink High School, Lenoir County

Economic Area 9

Elise School, Moore County; Rosenwald School, Robeson County

Economic Area 10

Camden County High School, Camden County; S. W. Showden High School, Beaufort County

Economic Area 11

Burgaw School, Pender County; E. E. Smith School, Duplin County

APPENDIX B

The North-Hatt Scale of Occupational Prestige

The North-Hatt scale of occupational prestige was compiled from the response of a national sample. It was designed to determine the relative value people assigned to a variety of occupations. Respondents were asked to rate the 90 occupations given as "excellent, good, average, somewhat below average, or poor." Each occupation was then given a score based upon the response to it by all respondents. For example, a physician was rated 93, a county judge 87, undertaker 72, lumberjack 53, and bartender 44.

This method of rating occupations proved very useful, but the original 90 occupations were inadequate. Several researchers have added to the list, giving it greater unity. A modified version of the North-Hatt scale was used to determine the prestige of occupations recorded by respondents in this study.

APPENDIX C

Chi-Square and the Level of Probability

The chi-square statistic is used to determine whether observed differences between two groups are due to chance. If the difference is not due to chance then it is assumed to be a result of some specific variable, hopefully the one under study.

The value of the chi-square determines the level of significance at which it may be accepted. For example, a particular value of chi-square (under the conditions of the study) may be significant at the .05 level. This means that in only 5 times out of a hundred would such a chi-square value be due to chance factors rather than to the study variable. The .01 level usually is set as the minimum level of acceptance; the .01 level (one chance out of a hundred that the result is not due to the test variable) or the .001 level (one chance out of a thousand) are much stronger and more reliable.